GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3160
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
ISSUE RAISED IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government has approached the UN Security Council andraised the issue concerning Indian Prisoners of War in Pakistani jails;

(b) if so, the reaction of UN Secretary-General in this regard;

(c) whether Indian Army and Air Force personnel are still in the Pakistani jails as PoWs since 1971;

(d) whether the Indian Government has also urged the UN Secretary General to ask Pakistan`s Military ruler to stop the `proxy war` against India;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the response of the U. N. Secretary General in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a - f) India is committed under the Shimla Agreement of 1972 to address all issues with Pakistan on the basis of bilateralism.The issue of Indian POWs in Pakistani custody has, therefore, been taken up directly with Pakistan.

India has raised the issue of sponsorship of cross-border terrorism by Pakistan against India directly with that country. India has also appropriately and effectively made known to the international community including the UN Secretary General details of such Pakistani actions which amount, in fact, to clandestine war against India. In response to a request by the UN Secretary General, India had provided detailed inputs including information on state sponsored cross-border terrorism of which India has been a victim for the past 20 years. It is note worthy that India`s report on terrorism has been prominently included in the Secretary General`s report on the subject submitted to the 54th General Assembly. As a consequence of our efforts, the international community better understands Pakistan`s role as a state sponsoring terrorism.